Unit 1. THE GENERATION GAP

PART 3: READING

I. Read and do the tasks below.

The generation gap, which refers to a broad difference between one generation and another, especially between young people and their parents, usually leads to numerous conflicts. Such family conflicts can seriously threaten the relationship between parents and children at times.

It goes without saying that, however old their children are, parents still regard them as small kids and keep in mind that their **offspring** are too young to protect themselves cautiously or have wise choices. Therefore, they tend to make a great attempt to help their children to discover the outside world. Nevertheless, they forget that as children grow up, they want to be more independent and develop their own identity by creating their own opinions, thoughts, styles and values about life.

One common issue that drives conflicts is the clothes of teenagers. While teens are keen on wearing fashionable clothes which try to catch up with the youth trends, parents who value traditional clothes believe that those kinds of attire violate the rules and the norms of the society. It becomes worse when the expensive brand name clothes teens choose seem to be beyond the financial capacity of parents.

Another reason contributing to conflicts is the interest in choosing a career path or education between parents and teenagers. Young people are told that they have the world at their feet and that dazzling future opportunities are just waiting for them to **seize**. However, their parents try to impose their choices of university or career on them regardless of their children's preference.

Indeed, conflicts between parents and children are the everlasting family phenomena. It seems that the best way to solve the matter is open communication to create mutual trust and understanding.

Task 1. Decide whether the following statements are True, False or Not Given.

1. According to the passage, the relationship between parents and children is not easily destroyed by the family conflicts.
2. As children get older, parents let them live on their own way and do what they are interested in.
3. Teenagers try to please their parents by wearing traditional clothes.
4. Parents want children to follow their wishes in deciding the education and future jobs.
5. Some parents indulge their children with expensive brand name clothes.
6. In order to bridge the gap between the old generation and the younger one, open communication to promote mutual understanding is the vital key.

Task 2. Choose the best answers for the following questions.

1. Why do most parents still treat their teenage children like small kids?

A. Because children usually make mistakes

B. Because they think that children are too young to live independently.

C. Because they think that children can't protect themselves well.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. The word "**offspring**" in the second paragraph refers to ____.

A. parents B. children C. mind

3. What do parents usually do to help their children as they are young?

A. They prepare everything for their children.

B. They take care of their children carefully.

C. They encourage their children to explore the outside world.

4. Which kinds of clothes do teenagers want to wear?

A. latest fashionable clothes B. casual clothes C. shiny trousers and tight tops

5. According to the passage, what are parents' viewpoints about the teenagers' clothes?

A. Teenagers' clothes get the latest teen fashion trends.

B. Teenagers' clothes are too short and ripped.

C. Teenagers' clothes are contrary to the accepted standards and values of the society.

6. Why do teenagers want to choose their university or career?

A. They want to explore the world on their own.

B. They want to decide their future by themselves.

C. Both A and B are correct.

7. The word "**seize**" in the fourth paragraph is closest in meaning to ____.

A. catch B. choose C. find

8. Which can be the best title for the passage?

A. Where do parent-child conflicts come from?

B. How are children different from their parents?

C. How do we bridge the generation gap?

II. Read Lan's letter about her family rules and select the best option for each blank.

do morning exercise	*keep my room tidy*	*help around*
respect	*swear*	*go out*

88 Lang Street

Hanoi, Vietnam

June 12th, 2017

Dear Sam,

Hi! How are you? I'm overjoyed that you're going to stay with my family in one month. In the previous letter, you asked me about our family rules and now, I will tell you about them. Each family has its own rules and mine has a few. Here are some rules of my family. *My parents want me to* (1.) ……... with the housework and other home duties as they think that all family members should share housework. **What's more**, *they tell me to* take my studies seriously. They said that learning is very important and it has great influence on my future. **Other rules** in my family are that I should (2.) ……. every day to stay fit and healthy and always (3.) …….. **Apart from these**, *I am not allowed*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

to (4.) …….. late in the evening because this is dangerous. **Last but not least**, *they ask me* to (5.) …… elderly and *forbid me to* (6.) ……... I think that family rules play an integral role in helping family members understand one another and improve their own behaviors. If you have any questions, please let me know. I hope you will enjoy your time in Vietnam. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Lots of love,

Lan

III. Fill in each blank with one suitable word.

by	*differences*	*generational*	*younger*
comparison	*history*	*because*	*to*

A generation gap

A generation gap is a popular term used to describe big (1) ……. between people of a younger generation and their elders. This can be defined as occurring "when older and (2) ……. people do not understand each other (3) …….of their different experiences, opinions, habits and behavior." Although some (4) …….differences have existed throughout (5) …….during this era differences between the two generations grew significantly in (6) …….with previous times, particularly with respect (7) …….such matters as musical tastes, fashion, drug use, culture and politics. This may have been magnified (8) …….the unprecedented size of the young Baby Boomer generation, which gave it unprecedented power, influence, and willingness to rebel against social norms.

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